

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 046577

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: TSPA, JA

SUBJ: ROCKET FUEL

REF: TOKYO 2319

1. REQUEST EMBASSY PROCEED IMMEDIATELY ON DISCLOSURE OF UDMH PROBLEMS TO GOJ ALONG LINES OUTLINED IN PARA. 5 OF REFTEL.
2. BY WAY OF CORRECTION OF INFORMATION IN STATE 32733, THE SUSPECT CHEMICAL N-NITROSODIMETHYLAMINE (DMN) IS NOT A SOURCE BUT RATHER A BY-PRODUCT IN THE MANUFACTURE OF UDMH BY THE PROCESS USED AT FMC CORP. IT HAS BEEN JUDGED BY THE DEPT. OF LABOR TO BE A SUSPECTED BUT NOT A CONFIRMED CARCINOGEN FOR MAN. HOWEVER, SUCH SUSPECTED CARCINOGENS REQUIRE VERY SPECIAL HANDLING PROCEDURES AS GIVEN IN THE 1/29/74 FEDERAL REGISTER SENT TO YOU PREVIOUSLY.
3. GOJ SHOULD BE ASSURED THAT USG PLACES VERY HIGH PRIORITY ON SOLVING UDMH SUPPLY PROBLEM. DOS IS REPRESENTED IN CONSIDERATIONS OF PRIORITY ALLOCATIONS OF PRESENT SUPPLIES, SO INTERNATIONAL INTERESTS ARE BEING CONSIDERED.

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4. PRESENT EXPECTATION IS THAT FMC MAY BE EMPOWERED, WITH ONLY LIMITED CHANGES IN HANDLING TECHNIQUE, TO MANUFACTURE

TWO-YEAR SUPPLY BY PRESENT PROCESS, WHILE IN THIS INTERIM A DIFFERENT COMPANY WOULD SET UP A NEW PRODUCTION LINE FOR MANUFACTURE BY AN ALTERNATE METHOD NOT INVOLVING DMN. HOWEVER, MANY PROBLEMS REMAIN FOR THIS COURSE OF ACTION, AND SERIOUS SHORTAGES COULD WELL DEVELOP AFFECTING BOTH DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN PROGRAMS. IN THIS REGARD, WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW IF GOJ COULD IF NECESSARY SUPPLY ROCKETDYNE WITH THE UDMH REQUIRED FOR THE TESTING OF THE SECOND-STAGE N ROCKET MOTOR. KISSINGER

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NNN

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